

For Immediate Release

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“Creative Alliances” Symposium Unites Business, Arts, and Cultural Diplomacy at Global Crossroads

Ambassador Lisa Gable, Margery Kraus, Eugene Robinson, Massimiliano Belingheri, Grégoire Roos, Ambassador M. Ashraf Haidari, Anne Taylor Brittingham, and Renato Miracco join the Italian Embassy and co-Chairs Greg Houston and Ana Rold for a discussion on uniting the business, government, and social sectors in the appreciation and preservation of our global shared heritage.

Washington, D.C. – April 19, 2024 – Creative Alliances: Navigating Cultural Diplomacy at the Intersection of Business and the Arts Symposium, will bring together leaders from the art world, diplomacy, finance, and media. Organized under the auspices of the Italian Embassy to the United States of America, the symposium coincides with the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group and aims to foster visibility and relationship building across sectors, uniting business, government, and social sectors in the appreciation and preservation of our shared global heritage in an increasingly fractured world.

Backed by a diverse array of international partners, including [BFF Banking Group](#), [Diplomatic Courier](#), [International Arts and Artists](#), [APCO](#), and the [Phillips Collection](#), the [symposium](#) will feature three key presentations and panel discussions, followed by a spring garden reception celebrating the opening of *Contemporary Echoes: Rediscovering Italian Art From 1950-1980 Artworks from the BFF Collection*.

Speakers will examine the nexus of preservation and accessibility in institutional collections, the transformative power of public-private partnerships and museums in cultural diplomacy, and how cultural exchange and collaboration can contribute to a more harmonious future and sense of shared humanity.

Greg Houston, President and CEO of IA&A and co-Chair said: “I am grateful to our diverse range of partners and panelists for their support and shared vision. Our shared global heritage is a precious resource, one that transcends borders and sectors. By bringing together the business, government, and social sectors, we are not only preserving this heritage but also leveraging it to build stronger, more meaningful transnational relationships.”

Ana Rold, CEO of *Diplomatic Courier*, and co-Chair said: “We are proud to support the Symposium and the opening of this important collection. At a time when the world’s leading development and economic leaders gather in Washington to discuss polarizing issues around

economic indicators, we aim to contribute to the discussion from a lens of shared values, diplomatic principles, and common ground.”

“BFF’s commitment to the promotion of art is the fruit of the Group's sense of responsibility towards the community and our global shared heritage. It emerges from the desire to give back to society a part of the value that BFF generates, in line with the Group's social and sustainability policies. BFF has always recognised art’s capacity to teach everyone about the importance of imagination, creativity and innovation – crucial tools to be used as part of the effort to foster the growth of individuals, businesses, and society as a whole.”

Confirmed speakers include:

- Massimiliano Belingheri, CEO, BFF Banking Group
- Anne Taylor Brittingham, Deputy Director for Education and Responsible Spaces, the Phillips Collection
- Ambassador Lisa Gable, former CEO, author, diplomat, and Commissioner of US Expo Pavilion, Chairperson, World in 2050
- Ambassador M. Ashraf Haidari, diplomat, educator and writer, Senior Fellow, World in 2050
- Margery Kraus, Founder and Executive Chair, APCO
- Renato Miracco, *Contemporary Echoes* curator, diplomat, critic and IA&A Trustee
- Grégoire Roos, BMW Foundation
- Eugene Robinson, *The Washington Post*
- Ana Rold, CEO & Founder, *Diplomatic Courier & World in 2050*

The symposium coincides with the presentation of the exhibition *Contemporary Echoes: Rediscovering Italian Art from 1950-1980, Artworks from the BFF Collection*. Curated by Renato Miracco, the exhibition is on view through June 2, 2024 at International Arts and Artists’ celebrated Hillyer Contemporary Art Space. The symposium is free and open to the public. To view the program schedule, panel descriptions and to RSVP, visit athillyer.org/creative-alliances.

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About the Italian Embassy to the United States

The Embassy of Italy in Washington DC is Italy's largest bilateral embassy in the world.

About International Arts & Artists

International Arts & Artists (IA&A) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally. IA&A is committed to convening thought leaders and creative pioneers from diverse cultures and borders, facilitating dialogues and collaborations that enhance mutual understanding and respect. This commitment underscores IA&A's role as a catalyst for cultural diplomacy and international artistic exchange.

About BFF Banking Group

BFF Banking Group is the largest speciality finance provider in Italy and a leading player in Europe for Factoring and Lending services towards Public Administrations; in Italy, it also provides securities services and corporate payment services. The Group operates in nine countries in Europe.

About Diplomatic Courier

Diplomatic Courier is a global affairs media network connecting global publics to leaders in international affairs, diplomacy, social good, technology, business, and more. Diplomatic Courier's global network spans 182 countries and six continents. Readers can find Diplomatic Courier in print, online, mobile, video, and social media. It is also the host of the futuristic think tank/do tank World in 2050, which hosts private forums, global summits, and innovation labs aiming to 'help the future arrive well.

About the Phillips Collection

Established in 1921 by art collector and philanthropist Duncan Phillips, The Phillips Collection has amassed a diverse collection of modern and contemporary art over the past century. Housed in Phillips's former home in Washington's historic Dupont Circle neighborhood, the museum showcases over 5,000 works and frequently reshuffles its galleries to create new dialogues between artworks. In addition to exhibiting selections from its permanent collection and special exhibitions, The Phillips Collection prioritizes innovative education and community engagement programs for audiences of all backgrounds and ages, including initiatives at its satellite campus.

About APCO

APCO is a global advisory and advocacy firm helping leading corporations, foundations and governments navigate a complex world. An independent and majority women-owned company, APCO brings diverse people and ideas together and works beyond traditional boundaries, building the un/common ground upon which progress is made.

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